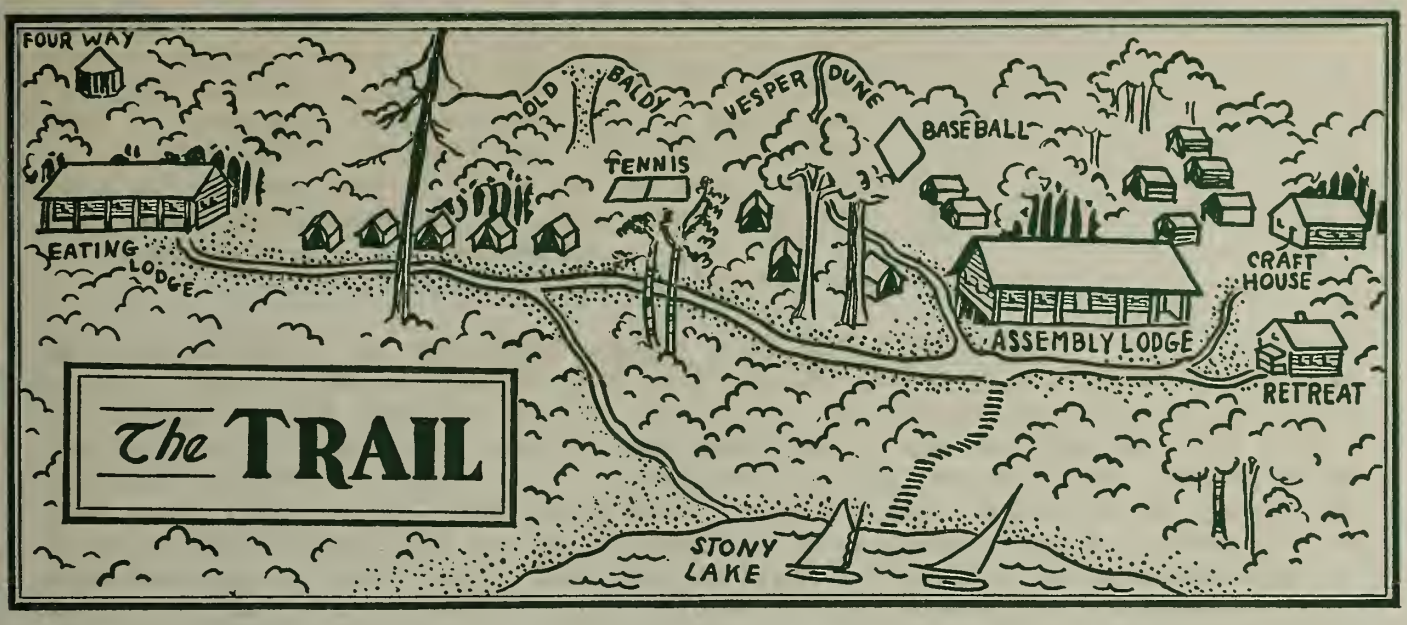


The TRAIL

Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

MAY AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8, Mo. 1956

THIS GUY IS GETTING ON THE BALL! -- and I'm sure that you are too as you're gathering together your camp gear and making your travel plans, in preparation for hitting the trail to Camp Miniwanca in just a few short weeks.

THIS ISSUE OF THE "TRAIL" is written and sent to you with the purpose of helping you "get on the ball" by preparing yourself in every way for that wonderful Miniwanca experience. You new campers are surely wondering just what the place is like, just what the program of activities is, and just how you're going to fit into it. You old campers, who are returning this year for another summer of tops in fun and worthwhile living, are wondering who'll be there, what new changes have been made, and how you can best make ready to be your very best self in all those great activities that have become a traditional part of Camp Miniwanca. So here's the "Trail" to bring these things to you campers, both old and new.

IT WILL BE A GREAT GANG OF CAMPERS this year, as always. Registration filled up as early as October 15th this year--the earliest ever! A pretty long waiting list of fellows has built up, and we've been taking names from that list to fill any cancellations which have occurred. On the last page of this issue of the "Trail" you will find the list of this year's new campers. We're glad to welcome them to our Miniwanca gang.

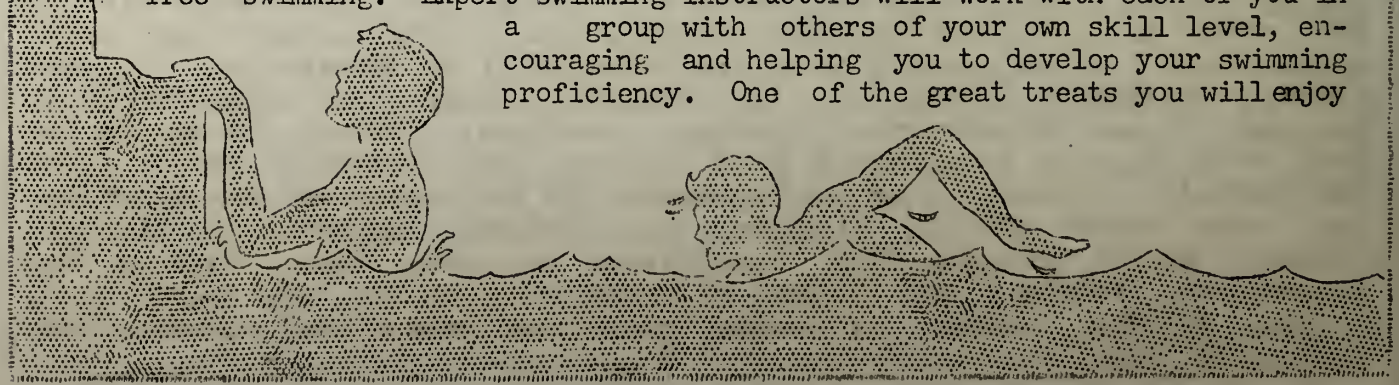
CAMPERS FROM MANY STATES will be with us this summer. Our leader staff will be from points of wide geographical distribution, too. A total of twenty-four states are represented in our camper line-up,along with one of the territories. They are: Alabama, California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Sixteen states are represented by the leaders who are on our roster. These include Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. It's a great experience spending five full weeks living, playing, working, learning, and sharing with fellows from so many different parts of our great land!

FROM THE VERY FIRST CALL at the beginning of each camp day you'll be on your way to new and exciting adventures in the woods and on the dunes of that wonderful Michigan camp country. There's really no finer place in the world to camp than by the blue waters of Stony Lake, on the cool wooded dunes, and on the wide, sandy beaches of Lake Michigan. At Miniwanca you'll find them all!

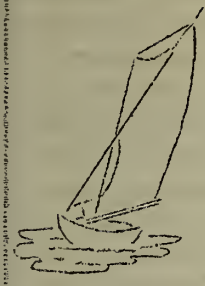
YOU'LL BE LIVING IN A VILLAGE GROUP made up of campers your own age. Three villages make up the Younger Boys Camp (Darers--11 and 12 years of age; Doers--13 and 14; Pre-Seniors--15 and 16),and many of the camp activities will be geared right to your own age group within your village unit. Each village is made up of several cabin groups. You will be living in one of these cabins as a member of a group of six campers and a leader. Here again, many of your activities will be with others of your immediate cabin "family", as you get really close together in understanding and friendship. This is your real chance, too, to get next to a really fine older fellow--your cabin leader. He will be there as one of a carefully selected group of outstanding campus Christian leaders and able participants in all phases of school and community life. He'll be by your side to share with you the things that he has learned, many of them learned from the very sort of experiences you are going through now.

MANY ALL-CAMP ACTIVITIES AND ACROSS-CAMP ACTIVITIES will be a part of your camp day. By "across-camp activities" I mean the kind where you are at work or play on some one thing which especially interests you,and there are others from across the camp--regardless of age, village group, etc--who are interested in it too and are active at it with you. There is full opportunity for you to follow out a hobby or develop a new skill in some interest of yours. You'll find leaders and campers there and ready to help you in it. Some will be just beginning, some will be real experts, and some will be scattered along all the way in between. One of the great things about the Interest Group activities at Miniwanca is the spirit of sharing and helpfulness by which each one helps another. The impressive thing about these same Interest Groups is the number of fellows who go away each year with a whole raft of new skills and exciting new interests! Some samples of the kind of Interest Groups we have had in the past are: Archery, Boxing, Fencing, Tennis, Tumbling, Wrestling, Canoeing, Rowing, Sailing, Dramatics, Creative Writing, Sketching and Painting, Photography, Model Airplane Building, Hand Crafts (all kinds),Camp Orchestra, Camp Choir, Nature Study, Nature Collections, Hiking, Outdoorscraft, Scouting, Camp Newspaper, Radio, Riflery, and many others.

A FULL PROGRAM OF WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES will be going on this summer, as every summer, under the supervision of top-notch,fully-qualified Red Cross Water Safety Instructors. The Stony Lake waterfront is completely equipped and will be in full readiness for a complete swimming program of both instruction and "free" swimming. Expert swimming instructors will work with each of you in a group with others of your own skill level, encouraging and helping you to develop your swimming proficiency. One of the great treats you will enjoy

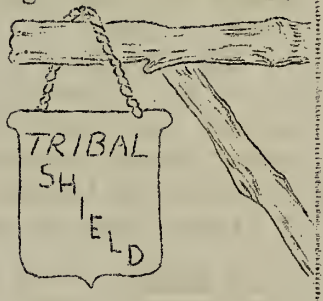


in camp is the fun on the beach and in the breakers of wonderful Lake Michigan. The beach is wide and gently sloping, the water cool and safe in depth, the swells and breakers thrilling and spine-tingling, and the times on Michigan beach are long remembered. Speaking of the beach brings to mind those Pre-Senior hikes up the beach to Point Sable lighthouse--and those super beach suppers for everyone!



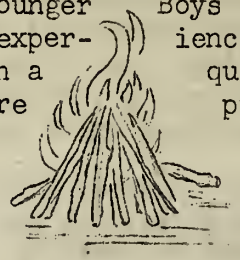
And what is a waterfront program with watercraft? You'll find plenty of opportunity for boating, sailing and canoeing on Stony Lake. Qualified skippers are on hand to head up the sailing instruction and to help any of you land lubbers turn yourselves into sailors. Expert instruction in rowing and canoeing are a part of the available program. Careful supervision is exercised at all times, standards of swimming ability for sailors, rowers, and canoeists are maintained, and all reasonable safety precautions are observed--this in order that the use of the water may contribute to the greatest good and the greatest enjoyment of every one of you.

THE CAMP IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR TRIBES for many of the sports and games activities. You'll be a member of one of these--the Sands, Creeks, Beaches, or Breakers--and you'll have a great time with your tribe in those tribal games. You'll be glad to find, too, that at Camp Miniwanca we're not at all interested in developing stars in sports activities, but that we pit every fellow in competition against HIMSELF. Every one participates in every tribal game. The games are scheduled and arranged on an age-group basis so that you will be playing with fellows your own speed and skill. In that way you'll be challenged not simply to beat some other fellow, but to beat YOURSELF, to improve your skill and your enjoyment of each activity. Every fellow is important to his tribe, and as his skill improves his tribe improves. It's a great night at the close of camp, when we gather for our final fellowship and for the giving of recognitions, especially as the suspense builds up and we wait anxiously to learn whether Breakers, Creeks, Breakers, or Sands receive the Tribal Shield for their total record in camp activities together. You'll be in there cheering right along with the rest!



SKILLS IN OUTDOOR LIVING can be a real part of what your Camp Miniwanca experience brings you, too. The wooded dunes are wonderful for camping out. There is an abundance of birds and other wildlife, and the unique growth pattern of the plant life on beach and dune gives an area of exceedingly interesting study of nature lore. Some of the staff of leaders have had a wealth of experience in the lore and skills of hiking, outdoor cooking, overnight camping, and general outdoorscraft. They will be prepared to help you gain some experience and attain some skill in any of these areas in which you are interested. If you've never had opportunity to put your hand to chopping firewood, or preparing a meal over an open fire, or any of these other crafts which are related to life in the open, then you'll want the chance to try it! You old timers will be sure to be there for more, I'm certain. By the way, a number of fellows each year take advantage of the opportunity which camp affords to pass Boy Scout advancement tests. A fully-registered Scout Leader is a member of the camp staff, and will have authorization from National Boy Scout Headquarters to check on advancement work. If you are working on some Scout tests, don't take time out while at camp--count on taking advantage of the wonderful facilities which Miniwanca has, and keep right on with your Scout tests. I'm sure you could advance a full rank while at camp. Bring your handbook and any helpful small pieces of Scout equipment.

THE COUNCIL CIRCLE in Miniwanca Younger Boys Camp provides the place for some of the true highlights of your camp experience this summer. Nestled deep in the woods at the base of the dune in a quiet draw, the Council Circle is a really "campy" setting for campfire programs, tribal stunts, camp singing, storytelling, and many of the other wonderful fellowship events found at Camp. Here fellows try their hand at dramatics, band and orchestra (bring your instrument!), and demonstrations and stunts of all kinds. Just a word to you new campers (old campers will know it and be planning on it already), if you've any great ideas for council fire stunts, be sure and bring them along. Also any equipment, costumes, or props which will help to put your stunts over should be planned for (bring with you only if you cannot make it at camp). It is only a very few weeks now until the Chief takes his place in the Chief's seat, the tribes file into the Council Circle, and another series of wonderful experiences at Miniwanca is under way.



HIGHLIGHT OF EACH DAY is the vesper period spent on Vesper Dune, overlooking the wooded valleys and opening out on the sunset over Lake Michigan. There we are brought closer to God and to a fuller understanding of ourselves and each other under the thoughtful leadership of campers and members of the Leader Staff. This, added to a vigorous and worthwhile discussion each day under the able leadership of various leaders in those challenging Christian Ideals classes, evening cabin devotions, Sunday services of worship on beautiful Chapel Dune, and the worthy example of Christian Leaders in daily camp life, all combine to make the spiritual values of living take on reality for us all.

DON'T FORGET those items which will help make your camp time more fun--your camera, your current craft project and materials, your fishing equipment, etc. An interest group in photography will help make your shutterbugging more enjoyable. Another interest group in fishing will give you a chance to pull out some of those big ones we know are in Stony Lake and Stony Creek. Crafts, of course, are one of the big activities for everyone in camp. Charlie Pauck will be on hand to guide you again this year.

BOOKS FOR THE Y.B. CAMP LIBRARY are always welcome. Each year a few fellows and their families have been packing up those books which are still good boys' books but which they no longer need, and have shipped them off to Miniwanca. Don Pierce gets them unpacked and on the shelves in the Blazer Building library corner ready for a good summer's use. This is a great way to share your extra books with a fine bunch of other boys.

THE Y.B. STAFF THIS YEAR WILL INCLUDE: JOE WHITWAM, YB Director for the past twelve years, an able and experienced and well-loved member of the Founder family, again directing the camp; BOB STEIGER, new member of the staff of the American Youth Foundation, former YB Leader and OB Camper and Chief, assisting Joe and carrying many of the administrative details; ED CLARK, able YB Leader of former years and Head of the Christian Ideals Department and the Counseling program of last year, filling the same post again; CHARLIE PAUCK, Crafts instructor and Head of the Craft program for a number of years, back at the job again this year. A full corps of Cabin Leaders (a number returning from last year), plus a nurse on duty and a doctor in residence at all times, completes the roster of just about one of the best staffs you could call together. On the following pages there are some words of greeting from some of the returning Leaders. These fellows, along with a fine crop of new and carefully selected Leaders, are eagerly awaiting the day when we'll all be at Miniwanca for the 1956 season.

WELL, THAT'S IT for now. Here's to a great summer of growing in Fourfold living.

Founderly yours, Wadjepi P. G. Orwig, Director

Hi Gang:

Just back from a quick trip to Stony Lake and a look at Camp Miniwanca in April. The first impression was of the great distances one can see through the bare trees with the opportunity to see buildings and landmarks, like Old Baldy, in proper perspective. Buildings were shuttered against the winter snows, the waterfront was empty, and the voices of YB campers in action were just a pleasant memory.

In just a few short weeks that will all be changed as the 1956 camp swings into action. The buildings will be open and waiting for the many activities that make up a summer. The waterfront will be teeming with swimming, sailing, boating, and many special aquatic activities. The voices of YB campers will be heard on the playgrounds, practicing for a play, working in the craft house, serving as leaders on Vesper Dune, or in friendly conversation in the Eating Lodge, or in the give and take of cabin life, as we all renew old friendships and make new friends.

May we extend greetings to all of the old campers, and also send a special welcome to all of the new campers as we soon all join together for five weeks of fun and fellowship on the shores of Stony Lake for the 1956 season of Younger Boys at Camp Miniwanca.

Joe Whitwam
Director Younger Boys Camp

* * *

Say Campers:

This is just a note in advance about our craft program at camp this summer. Of course we're going to be carrying on all the many and varied kinds of craft projects we have in past years. We are planning this year to add some new items in leather carving and other fields of activity. The craft shop will be going full tilt. All new campers as well as the old ones should be sure to bring along any craft project which you have started or planned. We will help you finish it, if you so desire. We're also going to give you the opportunity to try your hand at some one or the other of the crafts which you have never tackled before. Let's make the final exhibition at the "County Fair" the best ever. See you all in camp.

Charles Pauk

* * *

Hi Fellows:

Now that the weather is turning more spring-like and school work is taking a backseat, I know that most of us are turning our thoughts toward the fast-approaching summer and camp. It won't be long now 'til we'll be sailing on the blue waters of Stony Lake and singing "Witchcraft" around a crackling fire in the council circle. I'm looking forward to these and the many other great things we'll be doing together this summer at Miniwanca. See you all real soon.

BOB FERGUSON

* * *

There's nothing I can say than any old camper doesn't already know. When that summer breeze starts blowing, anyone who has ever been to Miniwanca starts planning to return. This is the spirit the new campers will soon catch and love.

JOHN BADERTSCHER

Hi Gang!

It won't be long 'til we all head back to Miniwanca. Remember the sun and the fun from morning exercises 'til lights out? I'm counting the days until Camp rolls out its magic carpet down the steps toward Stony Lake. Won't it be great to see all our friends again, and to welcome all the new fellows into our Founder friendship. Then the camping fun begins, with all its glory: the hikes, the tribal games, the swimming and sailing and canoeing, the campfires, the vespers--all that makes Miniwanca so great. I'll be thinking of all of you 'til we meet at Camp, and until then--well, hurry up calendar!

JOHN ARNOLD

* * *

Hi Fellas!

Sue is great to feel spring in the air, because it means it's almost time for Miniwanca. I look forward to sharing its atmosphere of fellowship with you and all the good times that go with it. See ya soon!

KEN "WOODY" WOODRUFF

* * *

Hi Campers.....

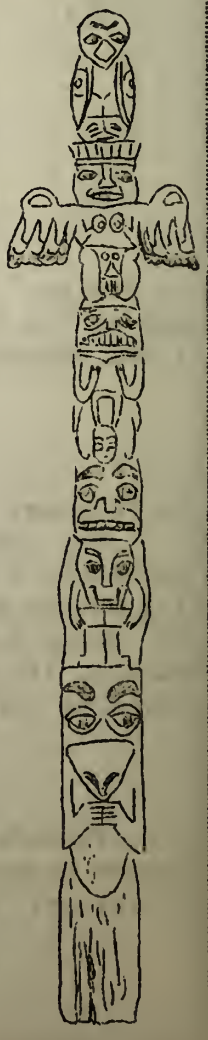
It sure will be great to get back to camp again this summer! I've missed camp the past two years, and I look forward to seeing my old friends along with a whole bunch of you new guys.

This has been a busy year, but every once in a while I get a chance to relax and think about the wooded sand dunes of Miniwanca and all the treasures that await us there.

Until camp time, then, whether it be BEACHES, SANDS, BREAKERS, or CREEKS, may the best tribe win!!!

WAYNE GIVENS

* * * * * * * * *

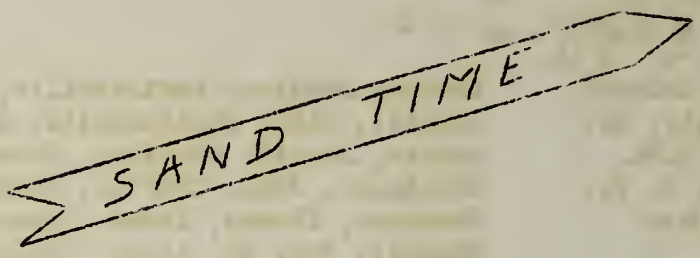


LEADER NEWS AND DOIN'S -- JOHN BADERTSCHER, student at Knox College, has been a member of the Knox College Choir this year and has traveled on tour with them. Incidentally, while with the choir at Western Springs, Illinois, he had a chance to get in a good chat with KENT ZIMMERMAN, one of the campers in John's cabin last year.....DICK BYRNE really is walking off with all the honors at William Jewell College this year. Dick is a Senior, graduating this spring. He and his debate partner recently won the Missouri state debating tournament of Pi Kappa Delta, the national collegiate debating fraternity, and thus earned the chance to compete in the national tournament to be held at Northwestern University later in the spring. Dick was voted by his fellow students as the outstanding member of the student body and most likely to succeed. Dick also sported a heavy growth of beard this spring as he prepared for and successfully carried through the title role in Shakespeare's "Othello", presented by the campus drama group...News came to the office the other day that one of our fine leaders of a couple of years ago has just been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, fraternity of those with top scholastic honors. A salute to DICK WAGNER, Grinnell College--great goin', Dick!.....New leader on our staff this year, but not at all new to Miniwanca, is WAYNE GIVENS. Wayne comes from a Miniwanca family--his older brother was one of our really top leaders a few years ago, and every YB camper has many good reasons to appreciate the presence and helpfulness of Aileen Givens, Wayne's mother, and strong right arm in the YB Camp office. Wayne has been a camper in YB and has turned in a top performance each year he has attended. Last summer he was away attending the International Convention of the YMCA in Paris. He's garnered about all the honors there are in his school in basketball, scholastic work, and student government leadership. Welcome back, Wayne!

WELCOME NEW CAMPERS!

Abrams, Alfred; Indianapolis, Indiana
Achuff, Stephen; University City, Mo.
Albright, Robert; Charleston, W.Va.
Albright, William; Charleston, W. Va.
Arnold, Stephen; Middletown, Ohio
Bell, Lee; Beloit, Wisconsin
Bibbee, Floyd; Berea, Kentucky
Biggs, John, Jr.; Ladue, Missouri
Boehm, Donald; Cleveland, Ohio
Bolenbaugh, Ken; Carrier, Oklahoma
Borchers, James; Rockford, Illinois
Burkley, John; Webster Groves, Mo.
Cambridge, Robert; Strongsville, Ohio
Clements, Tom; New Castle, Indiana
Coburn, Chris; Cleveland Heights, Ohio
Conrad, David; Kirkwood, Missouri
Day, David; Trenton, Michigan
Dettenmayer, John; Shaker Heights, Ohio
Devereaux, John; Shreveport, Louisiana
Eagleson, Stuart; Columbus, Ohio
Engler, John; Ladue, Missouri
Evans, Earl; Kansas City, Missouri
Garver, Robert; Ann Arbor, Michigan
Givens, Douglas; Glendale, Missouri
Givens, Robert; Glendale, Missouri
Graham, Theodore; Wichita, Kansas
Guthrie, Bart; Webster Groves, Mo.
Hardie, Robert; Springfield, Ohio
Hartman, Malcolm; Beloit, Wisconsin
Hawn, John; Webster Groves, Missouri
Heestand, Glenn; Tiffin, Ohio
Henley, Robert; Dunedin, Florida
Hill, Robert; Evanston, Illinois
Hilscher, Randall; Canton, Ohio
Hinton, Clarence; East Wilton, Maine
Hopkins, Thomas, Kirkwood, Missouri
Horner, Daniel; Ladue, Missouri
Hudson, Robin; Ann Arbor, Michigan
Jakus, David; Indianapolis, Indiana
Jennings, Michael; Max Meadows, Va.
Jones, David B.; Olivia, Minnesota
Jones, Landon; St. Louis, Missouri
Knight, Richard; Clayton, Missouri
Kuhn, Charles; Kansas City, Missouri
Kunst, Jeffrey; Dayton, Ohio
Layman, Byron, Jr.; Dayton, Ohio
Lee, Glen, Jr.; Richmond, Indiana
Letsinger, Richard; Hinsdale, Illinois
Lewis, Allan; Dayton, Ohio
Lorenz, Douglas; Bartlesville, Oklahoma
MacGill, Dick; Indianapolis, Indiana
Mackie, Donald; Bradford, Pennsylvania
Madlinger, John, Clayton, Missouri
Maxeiner, Thomas; Ladue, Missouri
Maxwell, Tom; St. Louis, Missouri
McGuire, Mark; Evanston, Illinois
Mersfelder, Rollie; Cleveland, Ohio
Middlekauff, George, Lakewood, Ohio
Miller, Charles; Cleveland, Ohio
Moise, Richard; Webster Groves, Mo.
Murer, Fred; St. Louis, Missouri
O'Brien, James; Webster Groves, Mo.
Olson, Donald, Jr., Ottumwa, Iowa
Osolnik, Joe, Berea, Kentucky
Pavey, Robert; Dayton, Ohio
Pavey, Thomas, Dayton, Ohio
Petersen, Chris; Kirkwood, Missouri
Phegley, Bruce; Webster Groves, Mo.
Phegley, Bryan; Webster Groves, Mo.
Phegley, Craig; Webster Groves, Mo.
Pringle, James; Bradford, Pennsylvania
Proctor, Leslie; Columbia, Missouri
Raezer, Michael; St. Albans, W. Va.
Reay, Thomas; Webster Groves, Missouri
Resseger, Edwin; Shaker Heights, Ohio
Rex, Gerald; Garden City, New York
Roberts, Gerry; University City, Mo.
Rogers, Markey; Ann Arbor, Michigan
Rogers, Richard; Webster Groves, Mo.
Saurwein, Richard; Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Scherer, John; Norwalk, Ohio
Schuetz, Gary; Evanston, Illinois
Shanley, Sheppard; Evanston, Illinois
Sherrill, Frank; Miami, Florida
Smith, Charles; Brookfield, Illinois
Snyder, Michael; Richmond, Indiana
Spinanger, Dean; Cincinnati, Ohio
Townhill, James; Hudson, Ohio
Tritle, John; St. Louis, Missouri
Walker, Michael; Dubuque, Iowa
Walkinshaw, Thomas; Shelby, Michigan
Wangelin, Richard; Charleston, W. Va.
Weber, Harry; University City, Mo.
West, David; Lakewood, Ohio
Wong, Nathan; Honolulu, Hawaii
Wright, James; Kirkwood, Missouri
Young, Thomas; Shaker Heights, Ohio
Zetterberg, Charles; Claremont, Calif.

MINIWANCA



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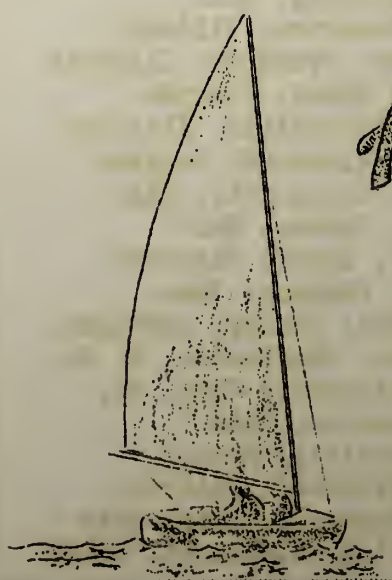

AHOY CAMPERS!

SET SAIL FOR: CAMP MINIWANCA
STONY LAKE
OCEANA COUNTY
MICHIGAN